



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sheldon A. Wasserman, MD, FACOG
Chair, ACOG-Wisconsin Section
W-ACOG@badgerbay.co; 920-560-5636

Applauds Governor Evers on his Healthy Women, Healthy Babies Initiative

Madison, WI – February 21, 2019 – The Wisconsin Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists applauds Governor Evers on his Healthy Women, Healthy Babies Initiative.

“The investments announced today will lead to positive changes for women and babies. There are significant and widening disparities and inequities in maternal and infant health outcomes. The package unveiled today will help to eliminate disparities in health care coverage, treatment, and outcomes due to differences in socioeconomic status, culture, race, and ethnicity,” said Dr. Sheldon Wasserman, Chair, ACOG-Wisconsin.

Access to family planning, well-woman exams, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and testing for sexually transmitted infections, among other essential health services is critical to ensure optimal health for women across Wisconsin.

Infant mortality and premature birth rates remain stubbornly on the rise in the United States. Access to prenatal care helps to identify and treat early indicators of premature birth, leading to healthier pregnancies, healthy moms and healthy babies. Medical costs for a premature baby are much greater than for a healthy newborn. Infants born early have higher rates of hospitalization and illness than full-term babies. The earlier the baby is born, the greater the chance he or she will have health problems.

The weeks and months following birth are a critical period for a woman and her infant. Substantial maternal morbidity occurs in the early postpartum period; more than half of pregnancy-related deaths occur after the birth of the infant. Access to postpartum care sets the stage for the long-term health and well-being of both mother and baby. During this time a new mother must adapt to multiple physical, social and psychological changes that can present considerable challenges, while at the same time a mother may be navigating preexisting health and social issues such as chronic medical conditions, mental health disorders or substance dependence.

“We are very pleased to learn about Governor Evers’ announcement and applaud him for this crucial investment. We look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature to advance these proposals,” said Dr. Wasserman.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is the nation’s leading group of physicians providing health care for women. As a private, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization of more than 58,000 members, ACOG strongly advocates for quality health care for women, maintains the highest standards of clinical practice and continuing education of its members, promotes patient education, and increases awareness among its members and the public of the changing issues facing women’s health care. www.acog.org

###